THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereal Development Programme Rice (ICDP-Rice) to increase rice production in the country. The scheme has been subsumed under macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 to provide flexibility to States based on local needs. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers including women; transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement; production of certified seeds, etc., as per the work plan of the State Government. Besides, frontline demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers fields. In addition ICAR is carrying out research for development of new high yielding varieties (HYV)/ hybrids and improved production technologies to increase production and productivity of rice in the country.

KVKs in Uttaranchal

†84. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Uttaranchal where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to be set up in the year 2004-05;

(b) whether the places for setting up of these Kendras have been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The names of the districts in Uttaranchal where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to be set up in the year 2004-05 are; Dehradun, Pithoragarh, Udhamsingh Nagar and Nainital.

(b) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The details of the places are; Dhakrani, Dehradun; Gaina, Pithoragarh, Kashipur, Udhamsingh Nagar, Majhera and Nainital.

Foodgrain output

85. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains output during 2003-2004 is expected to be around 211 million tonnes, falling far short of the estimated target of 220 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve higher targets and/or check any decline in food output?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the Third Advance Estimates of production of foodgrains released on 3rd June 2004, the total production foodgrains is estimated at 210.78 million tonnes which is 9.22 million tonnes less than the targeted production of 220.00 million tonnes.

(b) During 2003-04, although the total rainfall at all-India level was 102 per cent of the long period average, a number of districts/regions in the country, specially those in State with relatively higher yield like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were affected by drought. Further, abnormal rise in temperature in March, 2004 adversely affected wheat yield.

(c) With a view to improving production and productivity of foodgrains, the following areas have been identified for focused and priority attention:

- Doubling Rural Credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rates;
- Dry Land Farming and Water Management;
- Creation of Additional Irrigation facilities;
- Market support to farmer's produce for ensuring fair and remunerative prices;